



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 28, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JOPLIN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COUNTERFEITING \$20 BILL**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Joplin, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to counterfeiting a \$20 bill.

**Patrick M. Connelly**, 54, of Joplin, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to making a counterfeit \$20 bill.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Connelly** admitted that he used a computer, scanner and printer to make a counterfeit \$20 bill between May 20, 2002, and May 30, 2002. **Connelly** also admitted that he made between \$500 and \$800 worth of counterfeit \$10 and \$20 bills, some of which he gave to another person. A total of at least \$620 in passed counterfeit currency associated with this case has been recovered by federal agents, Graves said.

Under federal statutes, **Connelly** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000 and an order of restitution. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Joplin, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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